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I could think of no way to raise the bed. No sheets were available, nothing but dark rags for the patient to use as handkerchiefs,—a soft coal stove to heat, and the dish washing a disgrace to humanity.

You will say: Where were these people when the lectures on hygiene and sanitation were being given? They have forgotten the lectures, that is all. They are in their own home.

My last three cases were in homes where the people are worth thousands of dollars; money and dirt were rivals.

There has been so much done for every other field of nursing. This one field is in the greatest need of improvement.

Iowa.

J. K.

A CHRISTIAN SCIENCE PATIENT

DEAR EDITOR: Some time ago I had a confinement case for which I had been engaged for several months, but had been unable to visit my patient before labor, when I was called. My patient was having pains, but she laughed and talked even during pains, so I very leisurely made my preparations. While doing this I noticed that she read a paper all the time she possibly could. I thought she was trying to keep her mind occupied so as not to worry. After I had put her to bed, I happened to pick up the paper she had been reading. It would be hard to describe my feeling when I read the name *Christian Science Herald*. It was the first I had known of her religion.

She did not object to anything that was done during labor, which was easy, "thanks to Christian Science," as she said. Afterwards she did not want medicine, or anything connected with it, mentioned. During the first week a crack came in one nipple. I applied hot boric compresses and it soon seemed entirely healed. A few days later the breast showed marked signs of infection. She would not hear of my calling the doctor who had visited us only a few times. However, I 'phoned to him and he ordered hot fomentations, which she seemed only half willing that I should apply. By evening all of the symptoms were exaggerated.

Still she clung to Christian Science. She said if I thought there was anything seriously wrong she would 'phone to her Christian Science practitioner, who would give her an absent treatment.

I have not been in the habit of telling my patients their condition, so I called up the doctor and asked him to come out. She was very angry when he came and threatened to discharge me. I said she could, but I had done only what I had considered my duty. She soon calmed down and said she was only joking and after this she was very tractable. She said it was no use trying to do anything in Christian Science with a trained nurse in the house and a doctor at the end of a 'phone, but next time she would have a Christian Science nurse.

I was not allowed to say that the baby had colic, but "wind on the bowels." She also told me that I caused the abscess in her breast by thinking it might happen.

This was my first experience in nursing a Christian Scientist. I made up my mind that another time I would tell my patient that if she wanted me to stay she must agree to let me carry out my orders without protest; then she could have all the Christian Science she wanted.

Kansas.

G. L.